

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct the duplicate use of number "15" on pages 15 and 19.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-13 were rejected as anticipated by LAPORTA et al. 5,959,543. Claims 5, 8, and 14-15 were rejected as unpatentable over LAPORTA et al. in view of HENTON 5,860,064. Claims 4-8 have been canceled and claims 1-3 and 9-15 have been amended, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The amended claims are directed to the second and third embodiments of the invention shown in Figures 6-7 (discussed at pages 21-24). These embodiments are not disclosed in either LAPORTA et al. or HENTON and thus the features of the amended claims are missing from the combination and would not be obvious to one of skill in the art.

For example, the references do not disclose a portable communication terminal with a function of transmitting e-mail (or a corresponding method) in which a data input device includes a microphone for receiving a voice input, an analog-to-digital converter for converting the voice input to a digital signal, and a speech recognition circuit that converts the digital signal to character data for an e-mail message and a voice analyzer that, at a same time, converts the digital signal to additional expression data, where the additional expression data represents at least one of tone, stress, accent, and intonation of voice to

be generated according to the respective characters of the character data.

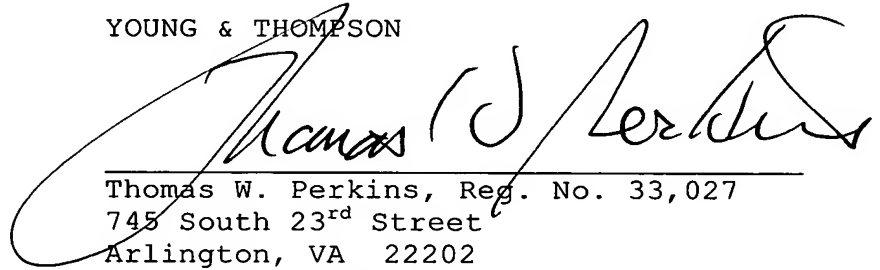
Neither LAPORTA et al. nor HENTON discloses a speech-to-text system as claimed herein. HENTON discloses a text-to-speech system and does not disclose or suggest a speech recognition circuit that converts the digital signal (that represents the voice input) to character data for an e-mail message and a voice analyzer that, at a same time, converts the digital signal to additional expression data that represents at least one of tone, stress, accent, and intonation of voice to be generated according to the respective characters of the character data.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins", is written over the printed name and address.

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